

Attachment # 1
Page 1 of 3

Leon County Commissioner Tony Grippa
301 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

3 August 2005

Dear Mr. Grippa:

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. (VFW) is a unique military based fraternal organization, consisting only of military veterans who have served in a combat zone. Many of those individuals are still serving, through the mission of VFW.

Our mission is to aid fellow veterans and active duty members with medical and financial benefits, and to serve as a strong congressional lobbying body to improve healthcare and other benefits promised to veterans and their families at the beginning of their career. We serve our local community throughout the year through our university and high school ROTC program support. We also support active duty units in harms way, through our care package and phone card programs, to name a few.

VFW Post 3308, Tallahassee, is "a second home" to hundreds of Leon County veterans. These veterans represent a large percentage of the population that consistently impacts commerce through purchases, investments and professional relationships with businesses and organizations throughout Leon County, and specifically, the city of Tallahassee. During the past several months our membership has grown, especially with young Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, numbering about thirty-five.

Our Post home is a forty-five year old decaying structure in dire need of major renovation. This renovation will help preserve our military heritage and improve facilities for our veterans, guarantee a Post home that meets health and safety requirements, and provide a facility they can be proud of for generations to come. Unfortunately, we do not have funds for these renovations. Over the past six months we have contacted over one thousand local businesses, specifically, car dealerships, attorneys and building contractors, requesting contributions. Response has been disappointing. We have received contributions totaling only two thousand-four hundred dollars. We need approximately eighty thousand dollars.

We are asking for your help and financial support. City of Tallahassee officials have gracefully pledged funds for a portion of renovation requirements. We would very much appreciate it, if you would assist us by providing funds for the remaining projects, listed on the attachment. We will be pleased to meet with you to discuss this issue at your earliest convenience. Please contact me at 933-6926.

On behalf of our many veterans, thank you for your consideration and support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Alvarez", is written over a horizontal line.

Mark A. Alvarez
Commander, VFW Post 3308

VFW Post 3308

3 August 2005

attachment 1

VFW RENOVATION PLAN

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>EST. COST</u>	<u>JUSTIFICATION</u>
New roof & wood rot replacement	\$25,000	Dire need of replacement as soon as possible. Ceiling tiles have fallen due multiple leaks (safety and health issue)
Remove/replace ceiling and installation in Ladies Auxiliary meeting room	\$2,000	Health and safety issue. Ceiling is damaged due to repeated roof water leaks, resulting in mold, mildew and deteriorated ceiling portions. Room has continual unpleasant, unhealthy musty smell.
Purchase storage/outbuilding	\$3,000	We have no dedicated storage room, and have had to section off a portion of our banquet hall and meeting room, for stores. Please see attachment 2
Install new air conditioner/heater in Ladies Auxiliary meeting room	\$ 500	Current unit is old and inefficient. Room is independent from the rest of the the building's HVAC
New front door and frame	\$1,500	Replace old, unprofessional heavy steel door, and improve security & aesthetics
Remove, replace and extend carport roof	\$9,000	Carport roof is in poor condition, and needs complete replacement. Inspected by three separate roofers
Kitchen renovation	\$12,000	Enhance operations and improve sanitation, to better serve increasing membership dining participation

Kitchen renovation includes:		
Commercial 6 burner, double oven range		(\$3,500) Includes installed commercial vent system
27 cu. ft. refrigerator		(\$1,800) Increase cold storage capabilities to better serve increasing membership
Kitchen cabinets and countertops		(\$6,700) Greatly improve kitchen dynamics
Remodel restrooms	\$5,000	Plumbing and fixtures will greatly improve aesthetics and sanitation of these 45 year old rest rooms
Public address system	\$1,000	Currently non-existent. Includes amp and mikes. We have acceptable speakers. System needed for meetings and special events
Flooring in kitchen, restrooms and hallway	\$3,200	Replace old worn tile flooring. Improve sanitation and appearance
New computer for office	\$1,500	Essential for budget, administrative and newsletter operations, and communications with State and National VFW Headquarters. Current system is old and unreliable
Resurface driveway	\$5,000	Portions of driveway are under water during rain, creating mud and erosion, especially near building and entrances. This is especially dangerous for disabled persons and senior citizens